

MAINE FIRE PROTECTION SERVICES COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
September 12, 2005
(approved as amended 10/3/2005)

Chair Jeffrey Cammack called the Maine Fire Protection Services Commission to order at 1:05 p.m. in the Fallen Heroes Conference room, Central Maine Commerce Center, 45 Commerce Drive, Augusta. Members present were Jack Berry, Stephan Bunker, Chief Jeffrey Cammack, John Cannon, Representative Robert Duplessie, Edward Johnston, Geoffrey Maker, Alex McPhedran, Senator Richard Nass, Harty Norris, Chief Jethro Pease, Joseph Thomas (for Chief John Dean), David Wacker, Steve Willis and Susan Pinette (staff). Members absent included Representative Patricia Blanchette, Senator Bruce Bryant and Chief Darrel Fournier. Michael Albert, Jay Bradshaw, Representative Richard Brown, Art Cleaves, Charles Soltan and Leslie Wiles (for Bill Williams) were excused from today's meeting. Guests of the Fire Commission included Albert Godfrey, Sr., former member and officer of the Fire Commission.

A motion by Jethro Pease, seconded by Dave Wacker, to accept the minutes of June 6, 2005. The motion passed unanimously.

The Fire Commission recognized Alex McPhedran as its newest member. Alex, a resident of Readfield, will represent the Maine State Federation of Fire Fighters. Alex replaced Al Godfrey who retired in 2004. Al was at today's meeting and thanked the Fire Commission for his plaque honoring his service to the Fire Commission.

Committee Reports

The Training Facilities (TF) Committee reported on the progress of the Request for Qualifications (RIQ) process. The committee has been working with the Maine Bureau of General Services (BGS) for several months. The RIQ has specific requirements that need to be followed and the committee has participated with BGS in the process. The committee reports that final interviews have been completed and reference checks are being conducted. The TF committee expects to have a final recommendation at the October meeting.

The TF committee has applied for a grant to fund the formal study from the State Homeland Security Grant Program. Maine Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) administers these grants. The grant committee will review the applicants and determine the awards by early October. Copies of the grant application were emailed to members.

Fire Commission members discussed issues and concerns that may occur during the selection process and questions that may arise during the county meetings. Members spoke of the need to gather facts, commit to a process, build a consensus, balance urban and rural needs, and educate the public. The TF initial report is available on the Fire Commission's website and forms the foundation for the formal study.

The Spring 2006 Conference Committee reports that several speakers and vendors have agreed to participate at the conference. The two-day conference will be at the Augusta Civic Center on March 21st and 22nd.

The Recruitment and Retention Committee reports a very good response to their survey and that MEMA staff has volunteered to compile the data for the Fire Commission.

The Best Practices Committee is working on potential nominees for the 2005 Best Practices Award. Members are encouraged to submit names to the committee before the end of the year.

Old Business

The Maine Attorney General's Office (AG) has completed their initial review of the rules regarding truss construction. The AG indicated they had a few questions on some of the language. The State Fire Marshal's Office (SFMO) and the AG will meet to clarify any issues.

New Business

The Fire Commission rescheduled its September 23rd retreat at the UMaine Hutchinson Center in Belfast to Thursday, October 27th. Members agreed to arrange for a facilitator. The agenda for the retreat will be set at the October meeting.

Fire Commission members discussed the July roundtable meeting, the county meeting assignments and the PowerPoint presentation. Members agreed to keep their presentations short and to listen to the concerns and issues raised by the attendees. The PowerPoint presentation included a brief description of the Fire Commission membership and its responsibilities and priorities.

Members agreed to schedule a group photo for the October meeting.

With no further business to come before the Maine Fire Protection Services Commission, Chair Cammack adjourned the meeting at 2:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan M. Pinette
Staff

Meeting Schedule

Monday, October 3 rd	Central Maine Commerce Center	1pm
Thursday, October 27 th	UMaine Hutchinson Center Belfast	9-4pm
Monday, November 7 th	Central Maine Commerce Center	1pm
Monday, December 5 th	Central Maine Commerce Center	1pm